



# NEWSLETTER

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY**



## DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY SCHEDULED FOR SDNG UNITS

A deployment ceremony is scheduled for 114 Soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard's Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion and 147th Forward Support Company, Sunday, Sept. 1, at 2 p.m. at the Aberdeen High School gymnasium.

The public is encouraged to attend the event as the units depart for a 10-month deployment to Europe.

A community send-off ceremony will also be held for 56 Soldiers deploying with the 147th FSC on Friday, Aug. 2, at 6 p.m. in Watertown at the Ernie Edwards Readiness Center.

The unit will be supporting Operation Atlantic Resolve, which builds readiness, increases interoperability and enhances the bond between ally and partner militaries using multinational training events in Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania.

The Aberdeen-based Alpha Battery is equipped with the Multiple Launch Rocket System, or MLRS, and is capable of providing artillery support to a brigade, division, corps or coalition task force. The Watertown-based Forward Support Company is a multifunctional logistics unit which provides supply and maintenance support.

The units will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

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# NYBERG'S ACE OPERATION ROUND-UP

Kudos and a big "SHOUT OUT" to Nyberg's Ace in Sioux Falls.

Through their "Operation Round Up" program at the store, they and their customers raised over \$18,000 to donate to the State Veterans Cemetery Foundation!!!!!!

Nyberg's Ace has also donated a Traeger Grill for the SVC



Foundation team to use for a raffle.

Starting July 27th

South Dakota Veterans Council members, South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery Endowment Committee members and all of Nyberg ACE stores will have the raffle tickets available.

A grill like this would make a great Christmas present!!!!!!



# DSS SUPPORTING VETERANS

Kudos and thanks to the great team at the South Dakota Department of Social Services!

Their Department held an internal fundraiser for Pierre Area Referral Service (PARS) and for the veterans at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

Employees were asked to donate food items and hygiene products. Collectively they donated over five large boxes of hygiene products for the veterans.

Thanks to all these great employees for supporting our community and our heroes!



# YELLOW RIBBON FOR 935TH

This weekend, SDDVA Field Service Officer Kevin Bowen participated in the Post MOB Yellow Ribbon for the SDNG 935th.

The Yellow Ribbon was held in Rapid City and had 25 soldiers and 30 family members in attendance.

Bowen briefed those in attendance on the benefits and services available to them and their families.



# WING COMMANDER SELECTED TO LEAD 114TH FIGHTER WING

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey P. Marlette, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, has selected Col. Mark R. Morrell as the next wing commander for the 114th Fighter Wing.

As wing commander, Col. Morrell will oversee the operations of over 1,100 personnel as well as assigned F-16C Fighting Falcons; providing worldwide deployable, mission-ready forces as well as emergency response and support to civilian authorities.

Col. Morrell is a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 780, South Dakota State University. He is a graduate, as well as a former instructor pilot at the U.S. Air Force Weapons School. Col. Morrell has over 2,450 flying hours in the F-16, and has deployed in support of operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, and Enduring Freedom.

He has been assigned to numerous operational and staff positions at the squadron, group, and wing levels, and most recently led 335 airmen during a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and NATO's Resolute Support Mission.

Col. Morrell is currently serving as vice commander for the 114th Fighter Wing, and will assume command of the 114th Fighter Wing from Col. Nathan Alholinna during a change of command ceremony to be held Sept. 7, 2019. Col. Alholinna will retire with over 30 years of exemplary service to the Air Force and South Dakota Air National Guard.

"Col. Morrell is a truly outstanding officer and is extremely qualified to take command of the 114th Fighter Wing. I look forward to his vision for this outstanding organization and serving the men and women of our Air National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Marlette. "I also want to commend Col. Alholinna for a fantastic job serving as the commander of the 114th over the past three years. I thank him for his leadership, hard work and years of dedicated service to our state and nation."



# VETERANS DAY AT THE BUFFALO CHIP

Supporting soldiers has long been a tradition at the Buffalo Chip, and again this year the Chip will be dedicating an entire day to the acknowledgement of these brave men and women. They will be honoring the past and present members of our military during the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Freedom Celebration on Thursday, Aug. 8, 2019.

The Chip's Military Tribute Day gives everyone the chance to experience a variety of powerful presentations and inspiring performances, all specifically designed to recognize those who have selflessly served and, in some instances, lost their lives. The day includes the veterans charity auction, presentation of the Bob Hanson Distinguished Service Awards, the veterans trike presentation and the veterans service dog presentation.

At 7:30 pm on Thursday evening, August 8, the Bob Hanson Distinguished Services Awards will be presented to the following five heroes.

- Brooks T. Schild, SSG, Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, US Army, was awarded the Bronze Star with the V for Valor for "Exceptionally Meritorious Heroism in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His brother Richard L Schild, SFC, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery Brigade was Killed in Combat on 4 December 2005. Richard was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.
- Eugene "Gene" Murphy, Sgt., Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Inf Div while serving in Vietnam Specialist Four Murphy was awarded the Bronze Star Metal with V for Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force. Just 30-days before he was scheduled to return to the United States, he was on patrol when his unit came under fire. Sgt. Murphy sustained wounds leaving his legs paralyzed for which he received the Purple Heart.
- William T. Skavdahl, Chief Warrant Officer 2, 175th Aviation Company, US Army. CW2 Skavdahl received two Distinguished Flying Crosses and an Air Metal with Oak Leaf Cluster and V for Valor for actions in Vietnam and during the Tet Offensive.
- Sonar Technician (STG2) Rick Benjamin, U.S. Navy SEAL, graduated BUD/S class 109 in 1980 and reported to SEAL Team 1. While at SEAL Team 1 he participated in the inaugural Operation Bright Star. Rick was instrumental in implementing Naval Special Warfare's current Desert Warfare program. Rick transitioned into the reserves serving with SEAL Team 19 in support of SEAL Team 1, SEAL Team 3, and SEAL Team 5. Rick continued to serve our country with various government agencies until his retirement in 2010, and to this day proudly serves the SEAL community annually at the UDT/SEAL Museum by swimming out the ashes of his fallen teammates during Muster.
- Scott and Deb Whitman have been the quiet strength behind many of the annual Freedom Celebration events and activities for over five-years. The Buffalo Chip Freedom Field is due in large part to their hard work and dedication in honoring all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country.

To learn more about the Chip's Military Tribute Day visit: <https://www.buffalochip.com/EVENTS/Military-Tributes/Freedom-Celebration>

# RED WILK BULL BASH TO HONOR VETERANS

The thrills and adrenaline rush of bull riding is back at the SD State Fair with the Red Wilk Construction Tuff Hedeman Bull Bash Aug 28-29 at 8:00 pm.

Four time World Champion bull rider and Pro Rodeo Hall of Famer Tuff Hedeman has been producing bull riding events that have been thrilling audiences with great rides and high scores.

The Red Wilk Construction American Hero Award was started in 2013 by Red Wilk. Being a Vietnam Veteran himself, he knows the importance of honoring veterans for the sacrifices they have made for their country. Over the years, Red has honored 100 plus veterans from all over South Dakota. Governor Kristi Noem and SDDVA Secretary Whitlock will be attending and participating in the award ceremonies.

Groundbreaking Ceremony for  
South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery  
Monday, September 9, at 9:00 am (CT)



Directions —

If traveling on I-229 North: Take I-229 North until it ends and turns into Jim Zweep Highway. Approximately a quarter mile north turn right onto Slip Up Creek Road. Follow Slip Up Creek Road until you see the entrance to the cemetery land.

If you're traveling on I-90: Whether traveling East or West on I-90 take the Cliff Avenue Exit (Exit 399) and head North. Travel North approximately three miles to 258<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn Right heading East on 258<sup>th</sup> St. Approximately two miles East turn right on to 477<sup>th</sup> Ave heading South. Travel South approximately one-and-a-half miles and the cemetery property will be on your right.

# DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY FOR PIERRE SD GUARD UNIT

A deployment ceremony is scheduled for about 70 soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard's 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion on Saturday, July 27, at 2 p.m. at T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

The public is encouraged to attend the event as the units depart for a nine month deployment to the Middle East to provide multifunctional logistics and support operations.

Planned speakers for the ceremony include Gov. Kristi Noem, Pierre Mayor Steve Harding and Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, SDNG adjutant general.

The unit will report to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

This will be the second mobilization for the 152nd CSSB since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The unit first deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2013.

## SIoux FALLS AIR SHOW

The Sioux Falls Air Show will be held Saturday and Sunday, August 17-18 in Sioux Falls.

Gates will be open from 8:30 am—5:00 pm (CT).

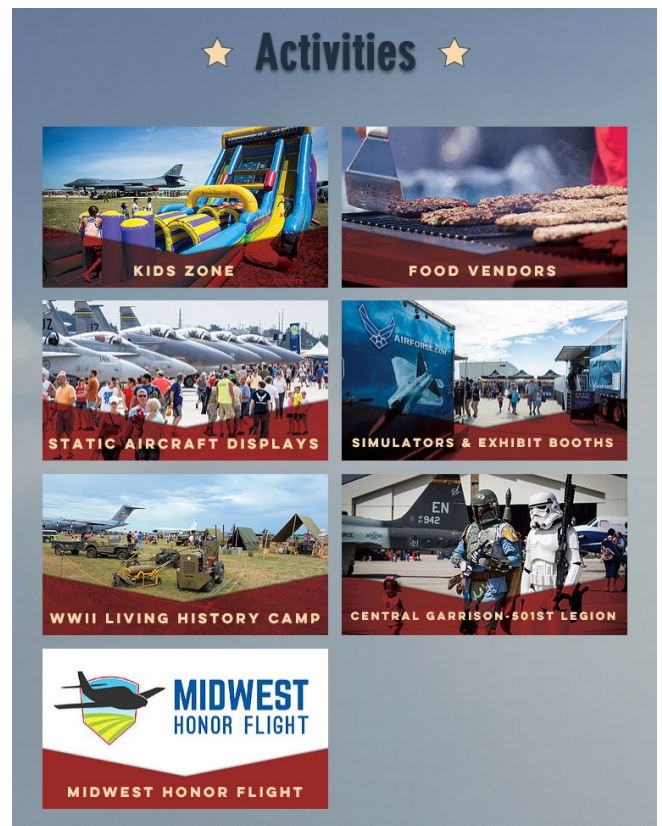
Busses begin transporting guests to the air show ground at 8:30 am (CT).

Performances will start at 11:00 am (CT) and will end at 4:00 pm (CT).

To learn more about the air show visit:

<https://www.cafioefoss.com/> or

<https://www.siouxfallsairshow.com/performers>







## South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery

HELP SUPPORT The South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery!

Nyberg's Ace is a proud supporter.

Join us at Hot Classics Night July 27, 2019 Downtown Sioux Falls  
and donate to the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery  
Endowment Fund. Support our local veterans—those who have  
served and those who are serving. Thank you!

2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

**Nyberg's ACE**  
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

**HOT CLASSICS NIGHT**

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2019  
SIOUX FALLS, SD  
5PM-10PM

Food Truck Vendors  
& Beverages

**SHOWCASING CLASSIC CARS**  
All classic vehicles welcome. No registration needed.  
For more info, visit: [NybergsAce.com/events](http://NybergsAce.com/events)

Live Music by  
**DNR**  
BAND



# Freedom Ride Poker Run

## August 4, 2019

**By Vets...For Vets** **VIPs To Attend**

American Legion Riders • Battle Mountain Post 71

**8:30 - 10:00 am: Registration**

**\$15 first hand - \$5 each add'l hand**

**(Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd & worst + many other prizes!)**

**10:00 am: Ride Starts**

**State Veterans Home**

**2500 Minnekahta Ave, Hot Springs, SD**

# Meal at American Legion

**Sunday, August 4 • 5 PM**

**1045 Jennings Ave • Hot Springs, SD**

**Sloppy Joes | Potato Salad**

**FREE WILL DONATION**





*4th Annual*

Hot Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

# FALL RIVER HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL

*August 24th and 25th, 2019*

## FREE ADMISSION!

**HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES\***

Must be booked in advance with Black Hills Balloons.  
Call 605.673.2520 or email [info@blackhillsballoons.com](mailto:info@blackhillsballoons.com)

### Special Appearance by the Freedom Flight Inc. POW/MIA Balloon!

Sponsored by McGas Propane and  
Hot Springs American Legion Post 71



### FREE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES IN HOT SPRINGS

**KID ZONE!!!**

**WALK IN BALLOON  
ART WALK & CHALK  
BALLOON LAUNCHES AT DAWN\*  
NIGHT GLOW\***

### BALLOON FEST WALK 5K, 10K-2A

Sponsored by Black Hills  
Volkssport Assoc. [bhva.org](http://bhva.org)

Get more information at  
**[WWW.FALLRIVERBALLOONFEST.COM](http://WWW.FALLRIVERBALLOONFEST.COM)**

\*All events weather permitting

**HARE & HOUND SPONSOR**



## THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS!!!



CAF JOE FOSS SQUADRON PRESENTS:

# PARTY LIKE IT'S 1975 HANGAR PARTY

A TRIBUTE TO OUR VIETNAM WAR VETERANS

**AUGUST 15, 2019**

**7:00 PM - 11:00 PM**

**MAVERICK AIR CENTER, SIOUX FALLS, SD**

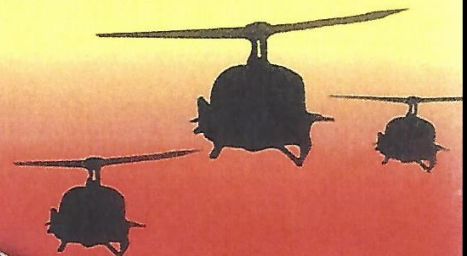
In Conjunction with Sioux Falls Airshow  
Vietnam Era Military Aircraft on Display  
from Cavanaugh Flight Museum

\$15 Advance Tickets Available at  
[www.cafjoeboss.com/events](http://www.cafjoeboss.com/events)

\$20 at the Door

Open to the Public | Cash Bar

Live 60's & 70's Music by  
**The Last Call Band**



COMMEMORATIVE  
AIR FORCE



Jul 27—SDNG Deployment Ceremony for the 152nd Combat Sustainment—Riggs High School—Pierre—2:00 pm (CT)  
Jul 29—All Nations Veterans Cemetery Dedication—McLaughlin (10191 Highway 6)—10:00 am (CT)  
Aug 2—American Legion Highway 281 Centennial Run (ND/SD Border to SD/NE Border)  
Aug 2—CRST Dedication of Veterans Memorial Park—Eagle Butte (E. HWY 212)—3:00 pm (CT)  
Aug 3-6—DAV National Convention—Orlando, FL  
Aug 4—American Legion Freedom Ride—Registration—8:30 am—10:00 am (MT) and Departure from the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home—10:00 am (MT)  
Aug 14—Turner County Fair Vietnam Veterans Recognition—3:00—5:00 pm (CT)  
Aug 14—SFVAHCS Show and Shine—SFVAHCS Campus—5:30—8:30 pm (CT)  
Aug 15—Tribute to Vietnam Veterans—Maverick Air Center—Sioux Falls—7:00 pm (CT)  
Aug 17—SFVAHCS Whole Health Class—Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W. 49th Street)—9:00 am—11:00 am (CT)  
Aug 17-18—Sioux Falls Air Show  
Aug 24—Wine and Gala Auction (Midwest Honor Flight Benefit)—Calico Skies Winery  
Aug 24-25 Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival  
Aug 26—Sioux Falls Barrel House (Midwest Honor Flight Benefit—10% all day to MWHF)—4701 E 54th Street  
Aug 29—Veterans Day at the Fair  
Aug 26-29—SDDVA Benefit School  
Aug 31—15th Annual 727th Transportation/DAV Poker Run—Swiftel Center—Brookings  
Sep 9—SD State Veterans Cemetery Groundbreaking—9:00 am (CT)  
Sep 21—SFVAHCS Whole Health Class—Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W. 49th Street)—9:00 am—11:00 am (CT)  
Sep 21—Davison County Veterans Wellness and Benefit Fair—Mitchell Corn Palace—8:00 am—4:30 pm (CT)  
Sep 21-22—SD American Legion Golf Tournament—Hartford Golf Course  
Sep 24—Midwest Honor Flight Mission 5 Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—8:45 pm (CT)—doors open at 7:15  
Nov 2—Second Annual Hangar Dance (Midwest Honor Flight Benefit)—Mid America Museum of Aviation—Sioux City, IA—7:00 pm (CT)



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